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CHINESE METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE PROGRAM— EFFECTIVE USE OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY (U)

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Mr. Harley O. Sunsdahl (FTD/WE)

INTRODUCTION (U)

d. (U) 1977—Intercept of Japanese Geostationary Meteorological Satellite (GMS-1) data. This probably involved a slight modification to the WT-1 receiver unit.

DISCUSSION (U)

(U) China Daily, 17 August 1983, reported that construction of a meteorological satellite ground station began the previous week and that other ground stations were also under construction. The article went on to say that the ground station will process data received by satellites and relay it via a microwave communications system to a data processing center in Beijing's western suburbs. The construction of a 12-story data processing center near the SMA headquarters began in January 1983; it includes computer rooms and a 500-seat auditorium. Construction of two other ground acquisition sites in Guangzhou and Urumqi also began during 1983.

(U) To effectively use these new facilities, the Chinese are receiving training in the development of applications software for satellite sounding and image processing. This training is received under the US, China Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Atmospheric Science and Technology. The protocol specifically states that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will assist the SMA in the conversion of applications software, prepared at NOAA by SMA representatives, for use on other compatible computers as selected by the SMA. The SMA will provide a copy of the software package to NOAA as needed.